

The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

The 4th of July festivities have come and gone, but our independence remains, and I know we are all thankful for that.

Todd Wolford, Executive Director of Downtown Wytheville Inc. shared some of the highlights that took place during all the hustle and bustle of activities on Main Street and Tazewell Street during the day-long event. The July 4th Kids Parade was the biggest to date. Flourz Deli & Sweets provided water and cookies to all participants of the parade. They also donated two bicycles that were given away to two unexpected parade participants. Wiffle Pops hosted a “brain freeze challenge” with prizes. Graze on Main provided free ice cream during the event. The July 4th Cruise In featured some beautiful antique vehicles and was a great success with a surprising ending. The winner of the grand prize pedal car (donated by State Farm Insurance – Tommy Hundley Agency) was Benny Lynn. After winning, Mr. Lynn gave his prize to a lucky young boy who was so excited to receive it. In summary, Mr. Wolford said, “This is what community means and is supposed to look like!”



I personally enjoyed the new format of the 4th of July festivities, and many people I spoke to enjoyed it as well. There was music, refreshments, food, shopping, antique cars and children’s activities at many different venues up and down Main, Spring, and Tazewell Streets. Can’t forget the great PA system that could be heard all up and down Main street. The day ended with the Town of Wytheville sponsored “After Hours Concert Series” and fireworks. Overall the event was a huge success that will lend itself to growth in the future. I want to extend a “Big Thank You” to all who made the event possible for all of us to come out and enjoy. Special thanks to all business owners, car owners, Downtown Wytheville Inc. and their Board, Town employees and especially all volunteers. THANK YOU!



Photo courtesy of Michelle Govin Photography

A New Wytheville – Opportunities Abound (This portion was contributed by Councilman Mark Bloomfield)

Through Downtown Wytheville Incorporated, our Virginia Main Street Organization, the town is receiving state and national recognition for historic preservation activity and the speed with which we are revitalizing and transforming our community. In early 2013, Town Council received the results of a commissioned planning study by Arnett Muldrow Co. At that point the decision was made to implement many of the economic restructuring recommendations and transform our community with improved services and opportunities for our citizens and visitors.

Move the clock forward six short years and projects including Heritage Walk, Truss Bridge Park, Downtown Streetscape, Wayfinding Sign System, Community Boulevard and expansion of Crystal Springs Recreation Area are either nearly complete or operational. Of course, the intent of these infrastructure projects is to provide a healthier more livable community with increased options for shopping, dining, entertainment and recreation.

A byproduct of the plan was to stimulate private investment in new businesses throughout the entire town and we are seeing significant success. The first emphasis was revitalizing downtown and to date more than 8 million dollars have been privately invested in new lodging, restaurants, breweries and retail shops. Restoration of the Millwald Theatre will begin soon.

We are experiencing significant private business investment throughout other areas of town including Rural King, a major retailer, taking over the K-Mart shopping center, six new restaurants and another in the planning stage. We have a multimillion-dollar hotel nearly ready to open and another yet to be announced major project on the drawing board.

Nearly every week, we see a travel writer or television commentator in town with their take on the transformation and urging their readers and viewers to come for a visit. We hope that all of our citizens will take a walk, hike or drive around town and take advantage of the New Wytheville.

Millwald Theatre Update

The closing on the purchase of the Millwald Theatre has occurred.

What's New: Amended Ordinances

The Noise Ordinance has been amended to require all commercial and trash collection pick-ups town-wide to be after 6:00 a.m.

The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to place the Small-Lot/Small Home Overlay Zone on certain properties bounded by: (A) West Jefferson Street, Railroad Avenue and South 8th Street; (B) West Jefferson Street, South 14th Street, South 18th Street and West Washington Street; and, (C) West Jefferson Street, South 10th Street and West Union Street, all in R-3 Residential or M-1 Industrial Zoning Districts. I think of this overlay as a tool that property owners can use for the small lots that do not presently meet zoning specifications for building a home and can provide affordable housing per the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Zoning Ordinance has also been amended to add the Homestay definition and use. Homestays are transient rentals in private houses typically booked by Airbnb, VRBO, and similar websites

1-Homestay Definition: Homestay means an accessory or secondary use of a residential dwelling (single family residential dwelling, Townhouse, duplex or condominium) or portion thereof by a host to provide room or space for short term rental occupancy).

2-Use of Homestay: to add the use of Homestay to these Zoning Areas-(A-1), (R-2), (R-3), (R-3MH), (B-1), (B-2) and (B-2DT).

For further information regarding Town Ordinances, please contact Town Clerk Sherry Corvin at 276-223-3349.

Reminders: Brush Collection Guidelines

As a reminder, brush pickup dates are the last week of the month. The next week will be July 29 to August 2. Please have your brush and clippings ready on your normal trash pickup day. For more information about the brush collection guidelines, visit <https://www.wytheville.org/townoffice/publicworks.php> and scroll down to the "Brush Collection" section or call John Bishop, Director of Public Works at 223-3357 with any additional questions.

Mark Your Calendar: Get Outdoors with the Mayor

Our weekly walks together will begin on Thursday, September 5. The "Walk Back In Time with Mayor Taylor" will be held every Thursday in the months of September and October at 10:00 a.m. from a different location. During these beautiful late summer and early fall months, we will enjoy guided walking tours of portions of Wytheville's Historic District and other interesting locations. Watch for announcements regarding specific dates and locations.

Another new opportunity to enjoy our beautiful recreation area and get some exercise will be the "Hike Crystal Springs with Mayor Taylor" event that will be held this fall. The Crystal Springs Recreation Area provides the opportunity for all ages to get outdoors and enjoy the natural beauty of our area. Watch for the date of this and other events held at Crystal Springs.

Other News: Correction

In my last column some erroneous information was listed regarding mowing costs and fees. Please see the corrected version below. We apologize for any confusion.

For those citizens, for whatever reasons, who choose not to mow their lots, the Town has guidelines in place for the reimbursement expenses for mowing and weed-eating. Most lots are \$125.00/hour to mow and \$50/hour to weed-eat. Fines may also apply. Sec 12-91 of the Town code sets the fines at \$50/day (this can add up each day) for the first offense, and \$200/day (can really add up) for subsequent offenses, with an annual max of \$3,000. Please consider hiring someone to do your mowing in a timely fashion, it will be cheaper for you and will allow our Public Works employees to do other needed jobs in town.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. My office, at the Wytheville Municipal Building, is open prior to Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and other times by appointment. I can also be reached by phone at 223-3356 or via email at beth.taylor@wytheville.org.

Join Us For Some 1864 Base Ball!!

The Bereans vs. The Deacons
Vintage Base Ball Clubs of Wythe County

Thursday, August 15
Thursday, September 19
All Games Start at 6 p.m.
Withers Park, Wytheville, VA



**Refreshing Treats
From Wiffle Pops
Will Be Available
For Purchase!!**

FAMILY FUN EVENT No Alcohol Permitted!
BRING A CHAIR AND JOIN US!!

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS WELCOME!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Michael Gillman, (276) 223-3330 or email at michaelg@wytheville.org